

First Church of the Nazarene of Bay City. The church was organized by Reverend C. Preston Roberts, the District Superintendent, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Freeman. Reverend Charles Strait, who had come to Bay City in the summer of 1923, was named pastor. Ms. Jessie Bright was elected Secretary, Oscar Freeman was elected Treasurer. The Board of Trustees included John Copeland, Don Dickinson, and William Hess.

The present building was begun in May, 1939, and completed the following November. Merrit & Cole of Detroit were the architects for this 72 by 36 feet building, which had a seating capacity of 375. It had a front and rear hall, balcony, annex, main auditorium, chancel, choir loft and pastor's study. Room was made in the basement for Junior and Intermediate classes, where young people would be properly instructed of the principles of the Church, and its goal of creating significant meaning in the spirit of Christ in each person's life. The building was appropriately described at its dedication as "...simple, harmonious, and consistent with the Gospel of Christ, and is intended to promote a spirit of reverence and worship."

Since its founding and the dedication the present building, thousands of people have felt the strength of Bay City First Church of the Nazarene as the lever that has helped move them through life. From the days as children learning God's life lessons, to the responsible days of adulthood when the mission changes from one of learning to one of teaching, to the latter days of life when the Church is a place of solitude for reflections on life's achievements, parishioner after parishioner has received an invaluable benefit from their membership.

Mr. Speaker, so often we ask about the morals of America, the values of the American family, and the vision of greatness that we want for our nation. For the past seventy five years Bay City First Church of the Nazarene has provided all of these elements and so much more. I ask you and all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating Reverend Meulman and all of the members of the Church on this momentous anniversary, and in wishing them all many more years to come.

HONORING POLICE CHIEF JOHN AMBROGIO FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 1998

Mr. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of a dedicated and highly respected member of the Hamden Police Department whose decision to retire ended a career in law enforcement which spanned more than forty years. Chief John Ambrogio leaves a legacy of dedication, integrity, and excellence spanning over four decades, and he will not be forgotten by his fellow officers or by the citizens of Hamden.

Chief Ambrogio dedicated nearly a third of his life to leading the Department of Police Services with dignity and virtue, and his work has had a profound effect on the quality of life in Hamden. Eighteen departmental commendations as well as various other profes-

sional accolades reflect the commitment and devotion John has given to Hamden and its residents. John's good work is reflected in dramatic reductions in crime rates, the inauguration of the annual Halloween party, and the development of a progressive and highly effective police department—just a few examples of the contributions he has made to the Hamden community.

As a professional law enforcement officer, the various ways John has influenced the community are innumerable. Hamden residents credit John's work as Chief of Police as the most important factor in keeping Hamden a safe community, which is relatively free of criminal activity and drug trafficking. John Ambrogio has become an indispensable figure in Hamden and replacing him will be a tremendously difficult task.

It is with great pleasure that I join with his wife, Maureen, his children, and grandchildren as we honor my dear friend Police Chief John Ambrogio for more than forty years of dedication and commitment to the Town of Hamden. I wish him many happy years in his retirement.

IN MEMORY OF SOHAN SINGH RANDHAWA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a beloved member of our community, Sohan Singh Randhawa, who died in a tragic accident last month at the age of 69.

Randhawa was born in 1930 in Pakistan, and, as a young man became a police officer in the Punjab village of Dhano Vali, rising to serve in the national police force. He brought his family to California in 1968, eventually settling in Watsonville where Randhawa and his wife, Gurmej Kaur raised their four daughters, Kuldip Kaur, Manjit Kaur, Balwinder Kaur and Surinder Kaur. In 1978, Randhawa and three partners began Paul Trucking, which expanded quickly from one truck to ninety-five, and became an important element in the refrigerated agricultural shipping industry.

Randhawa was a central member of the Sikh community, a past President of the Sikh Temple in Stockton and an active member of the Sikh temples in San Jose and Fresno. Randhawa showed a generosity of spirit toward the people whose lives touched his, becoming a father and advisor to the Indian community. He took a personal interest in helping with the problems of new immigrants, settling disagreements, looking for solutions to immigration problems, resolving business issues, and helping with cultural assimilation.

Lifelong friend, and Mayor of Watsonville, Dennis Osmer spoke of his death as a loss to all of central California. We will miss this true advocate and benefactor, Sohan Singh Randhawa, but he is being survived by loving family and friends who will never forget his kindness.

HONORING ROCKY RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rocky River Middle School, which has been named a 1997–1998 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education.

Only 167 schools in the country earned this prestigious award this year. Ten public schools in Ohio received the award, and two schools in Rocky River have been recognized. Blue Ribbon Schools are considered to be models of both excellence and equity where educational excellence for all students is a high priority. Rocky River Middle School had to demonstrate its effectiveness in meeting local, state and national educational goals and had to successfully complete a rigorous application process. Blue Ribbon Schools must offer instructional programs that meet the highest academic standards, have supportive and learning-centered school environments, and demonstrate student outcome results that are significantly above average.

Rocky River Middle School is an outstanding school that is well deserving of this national recognition. Its academic programs and environment will serve as a model for schools across the country. My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating the students, teachers, and administration of Rocky River Middle School for their commitment to excellence.

TRIBUTE TO HON. M. BEN GAETH

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay very special tribute to an outstanding public servant from the state of Ohio. Following the One Hundred Twenty-Second Session of the Ohio General Assembly, the Honorable M. Ben Gaeth will retire as a member of the Ohio Senate from the First District.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Gaeth has dedicated much of his life to serving the people of the First District and all of the state of Ohio. Ben Gaeth began his career in public service in 1962 as the Safety Director of the City of Defiance. After three short years, he turned his attention to politics as he became the Mayor of Defiance. For nearly ten years, Ben Gaeth guided government and politics in Defiance, while always concentrating on working for the people whom he represented.

In 1975, M. Ben Gaeth was elected to his first term as a member of the Ohio State Senate from the First District. For more than twenty-three years, Ben Gaeth has been an ardent supporter of his constituents in Northwest Ohio. During his time in the Senate, Ben has served as Chairman of the Senate Reference Committee, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Vice Chairman of the Rules Committee, and was a member of numerous other committees.